THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A mountaineering team of the Indian Army climbed Chaukhambha-1 peak on 27th and 29th August, 2005 in batches and not on 27th July, 2005.

(b) Six mountaineers of the mountaineering team have not returned till date.

(c) and (d) The last search-cum-rescue operation by mountaineers of the Indian Army was carried out from 6th September to 4th October, 2006. However, the missing mountaineers could not be traced. The operation had to be called off due to heavy snowfall; and danger of snow avalanches.

Rehabilitation for displaced on account of land acquisition by MoD

750. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has formulated a comprehensive policy for rehabilitation of persons displaced on account of acquiring their lands by defence forces for their operational use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry has estimated the number of persons displaced on account of land acquisition by defence forces during the last three years; and

(e) what rehabilitation measures including compensation have been provided to the displaced?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Ministry of Defence has adopted the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families - 2003, formulated by Ministry of Rural Development. This policy is a comprehensive policy and is applicable to the Projects displacing 500 families or more en-masse in plain areas and 250 families en-masse in Hilly areas, Desert Development Programme (DDP) Blocks, Areas mentioned in Schedule V and Schedule

VI of the Constitution of India. During last three years, in two cases of acquisition of land projects in Orissa, where the possession of land was taken over during 2003 and 2004, rehabilitation amount of Rs. 6.58 crores was released to the Government of Orissa. The number of affected families in these two projects were 513. In another case of acquisition of land project at Visakhapatnam sanctioned in 2005, the number of affected families is estimated as 450 and an amount of Rs. 10.05 crores has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing rehabilitation measures as formulated by them.

Naval base at Vishakhapatnam

751. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence had sanctioned "Naval Alternate OP Base" at Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have rehabilitated/resettled all the villagers/ persons displaced by the project; and

(d) what is the latest position with regard to implementation of R&R package under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Setting up of a naval base or any alternative operational establishment at any place including Vishakhapatnam depends on the operational necessity. Whenever land is acquired for setting up any establishment of the forces, compensation etc. is paid as per law and rules applicable. It will not be desirable to disclose any further details in the matter in the interest of national security.

Participation of industry in defence sector

752. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have streamlined new Defence Procurement